

“#3, if a problem has escalated within the RI community and service providers, all because of deafness, the deaf and hard of hearing community would request that RI CDHH takes a look into these issues. The RI CDHH would conduct investigations and identify the problems/issues. Then the RI CDHH will study and analyze the specific issues. As soon as the issues are identified, the RI CDHH would develop the solutions and make contact with appropriate state departments to work toward solutions.

For instance, the RI CDHH could host town hall meetings to learn more about their frustrations or conduct interviews with individuals who reported this problem or discrimination. As soon as the RI CDHH collects all relevant information, the RI CDHH would explore the best possible solutions. After the solutions are noted, the RI CDHH starts identifying the grants that are available. It would help funding the program to alleviate the problems. The RI CDHH may also contact different state agencies to allocate their funds to help creating programs. If necessary, we would need to go through the legislative process to amend the language in laws in order to gain more access for deaf and hard of hearing people. It is depending on what case we deal with at this point. Our goal is that problems due to deafness need to be resolved ASAP and to ensure that deaf and hard of hearing people enjoy the same access as anybody who can hear.”

(Translated in American Sign Language by Steven A. Florio)



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